

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following section heading and paragraph on page 1, line 5:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 National Stage patent application of International patent application PCT/JP04/012312, filed on August 20, 2004, which claims priority to Japanese patent application JP 2003-208356, filed on August 22, 2003.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 15, as follows:

To 100 parts by mass of a mixture comprising 56.1 mass% (50 mol%) of easily sinterable α -alumina and 43.9 mass% (50 mol%) of anatase-type titanium oxide, 4 parts by mass of an alkali feldspar represented by $(\text{Na}_{0.6}\text{K}_{0.4})\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8$, ~~6 parts by mass of a spinel compound represented by a chemical formula MgAl_2O_4~~ , 0.25 parts by mass of polyvinyl alcohol as a binder, 1 part by mass of diethylamine as a peptizer, 0.5 part by mass of polypropylene glycol as a defoaming agent, and 50 parts by mass of activated carbon having a particle size of from 50 to 80 μm as a pore-forming agent, were added, mixed for 3 hours in a ball mill and then dried in a dryer at a temperature of 120°C for at least 12 hours to obtain a raw material powder.

Please replace the abstract on page 31 with the attached rewritten abstract.